



## BANTING AND BEST CHILD CARE CENTRE NEWSLETTER April 2026

### Centre Update

- ✚ Wishing All our Families, Board Members and Educators a Happy Easter.
- ✚ Centre is CLOSED on Good Friday, April 3rd, 2026.
- ✚ Centre is OPEN on Easter Monday, April 6,2026. Educators have planned various fun activities for the day.
- ✚ Wishing All our Families, Board Members & Educators Happy Tamil New Year.
- ✚ Thank you to all the parents who took the initiative to come and do activities for the special celebrations.
- ✚ Educators will be attending The Annual Umbrella Conference on April 11,2026.
- ✚ Staff at the Centre will continue to follow the Toronto Public Health and Ministry of Education Operational Guidelines.
- ✚ The weather is changing, so remember to dress your children appropriately. Please remember to send an extra set of clothes.
- ✚ Limited Spots are available in all the rooms at both Banting and Best and at our Satellite program at Prince of Peace.

E-mail: [bantingandbestcc@gmail.com](mailto:bantingandbestcc@gmail.com)

Dear Parents: Please feel free to e-mail us if you have any questions and concerns. The Centre is a PEANUT FREE environment. Please do not bring any breakfast and snacks containing peanuts and tree nuts. Please make sure that all foods have the ingredients list including any treats in the Loot bag.



Apr 02<sup>nd</sup> – Alison  
Apr 7<sup>th</sup> – Damon  
Apr 22<sup>nd</sup> – Alan  
Apr 27<sup>th</sup> – Saad

Apr 05<sup>th</sup> - Joshua  
Apr 15<sup>th</sup>- Jayden  
Apr 26<sup>th</sup> – Ethan C

# **Junior Room**

## **By: Atiya, Milly & Joanne**

2026 has brought a fresh and exciting start to the junior room, filled with new opportunities for growth, exploration, and meaningful connections. We look forward to engaging the children in creative experiences, encouraging their curiosity, and strengthening our partnerships with families as we build on the strong foundations we laid last year. The year promises to be one of discovery, joy, and shared accomplishments.

In January, we welcomed the year with vibrant cultural celebrations. To celebrate Pongal, we invited two families to join us and share the history and customs of the festival. The children were fascinated as they learned about traditions, foods, and the meaning behind the celebration. It was a wonderful opportunity to build cultural awareness and appreciation within our classroom community. In January we also saw a few big snow falls. Children loved playing in the snow and creating snowman.

In February, we welcomed the year by celebrating the Chinese New Year with a special family event. Together with the children, parents made dumplings in the classroom, creating a warm and memorable experience. The children were excited to participate, and it was wonderful to see families and educators working together. We are truly grateful to all the parents who took the time to join us and make this event so meaningful. According to the Lunar Calendar this is the year of the horse. We made a horse with recycle materials and children had fun painting and decorating the horse.

In March, we celebrated a variety of cultural traditions and meaningful occasions. The children were excited to welcome a special guest who celebrated Eid with the children. The guests shared traditional customs and spoke about Ramadan, helping the children understand the importance of this period.

During these months, we also celebrated several birthdays in the junior room. A big "Happy Birthday" to all of our wonderful children who have reached another milestone. We love celebrating these special moments together! As the weather is getting warmer, we are looking forward for nature walks and planting.!

# Senior Room

## Amy & Raina

As the New Year Begins, we decided it time to start with fresh goals and look forward to new beginnings. With lots of snow on the ground, children had fun and created many things sculptures with snow. Children all shared all the fun they had during the festive season in December from decorating the Christmas tree to receiving gifts. January brought meaningful learning experiences and special family involvement. The children enjoyed a visit from a parent who shared a book about healthy eating. They participated in discussions and showed curiosity about nutritious foods and healthy habits. Later in the month, we welcomed parents who introduced a cultural celebration called Pongal, a harvest festival. The children watched a video featuring traditional singing and dancing, explored cultural clothing, and took part in a related art activity. These experiences helped broaden their understanding of different cultures while strengthening their sense of community.

In February, the children engaged in hands-on, collaborative projects and cultural celebrations. They worked together to design and build a 3D “hibernation animal hotel” using a cardboard box, dividing it into rooms and decorating it with soft materials to keep the animals warm. They added creative details such as a roof, door, and decorations, and later crafted animals such as bears, snakes, frogs, and turtles to live inside. On Chinese New Year, we invited families into our classroom to make dumplings together. With guidance from parents and grandparents, the children learned how to prepare dumplings. We then cooked and enjoyed them as part of the celebration. The children also received red envelopes, adding to the festive experience. This event helped strengthen our relationships with families.

In our preschool room this March, the children enjoyed a variety of engaging and meaningful activities. We began by planting sunflower seeds, giving the children a hands-on opportunity to learn about growth and caring for living things. The excitement continues as we watch our plants sprout! We also took a lovely walk to the local library, where the children explored books and practiced safe walking habits in the community. Additionally, we were delighted to welcome a parent visitor into our classroom to share about Eid -ul-Fitr. Ramadan is celebrated by Muslims around the world after fasting 30 days. Helping the children learn about different cultures and celebrations in a warm and inclusive way. It has been a joyful and enriching month for everyone!

# **FDK 103**

## **By: Bing & Gowri**

During this winter, our children had plenty of opportunities to play in the snow. After heavy snowfall, we made snow angels and slid on the snow. The children also enjoyed digging holes in the snow and attempting to create tunnels using large shovels.

In January, we celebrated the New Year. The FDK children decorated large sheets of brown paper to write their wishes for the New Year. We also discussed animals in the winter. We learned that some animals hibernate during the winter, some migrate to warmer places to spend the winter, and some stay where they are and adapt to the winter climate. We used a large cardboard box to build an animal hibernation cave, and we provided toy animals that hibernate for the children to use during the activity.

In February, we celebrated one of our favorite festivals—Lunar New Year. We provided various materials for the children to explore this cultural celebration by participating in related activities. The FDK children learned Lunar New Year songs and greetings in Mandarin. They also practiced copying Chinese characters on paper to help decorate our classroom. This year, we invited parents to join us in making dumplings with the children. The FDK children had a wonderful time sharing this experience with their parents in the classroom.

In March, we explored fruits and vegetables in the classroom. We learned the names of different fruits and vegetables and had a discussion called “What Are Your Favorite Vegetables?”. During March Break, the FDK children went to the library to look for books about fruits and vegetables. We also made a salad using fruits and vegetables. These activities helped the children develop a deeper understanding of fruits and vegetables. We are looking forward to spring! However, just a friendly reminder: please dress your child appropriately for the weather. If it snows or the temperature is low, children will still need snow pants and mittens. Thank you for your cooperation!

# SA 102

## Lily & Tharani

January was a month full of creativity, movement, and fun learning experiences for the children! To start, the children explored hands-on cultural activities by making Chinese pulled noodles. They enjoyed stretching and shaping the dough, building both fine motor skills and an appreciation for new traditions. Creativity continued with craft projects like colorful pipe cleaner creations, a "2026" themed art piece, and building a 3D straw horse, crawl arm and swing. During the PA Day, the excitement continued with a playful blindfold game. We celebrated Thai Pongal by eating Pongal and discussing about the festival. The children had a wonderful time using their senses in new ways, building trust, and sharing lots of laughter with their friends.

February was a joyful and creative month filled with hands-on activities and seasonal celebrations! The children celebrated Lunar New Year by making special cookies. They had a wonderful time mixing, shaping, and decorating, while also learning about the traditions behind this festive occasion. Creativity continued with a fun 3D pipe cleaner horse project. The children used their imagination and fine motor skills to design and build their own unique creations, showing great focus and pride in their work. As part of our exploration of nature and growth, the children planted sunflower seeds. They were excited to get their hands in the soil and are looking forward to watching their plants grow over time.

March was an exciting month full of discovery, sensory play, and new experiences. The children had the opportunity to try fresh sunflower sprouts and even participated in simple cooking activities. They were curious and eager to taste what they had grown, learning about healthy eating and where food comes from. During March Break, the fun continued with a variety of creative and hands-on explorations. The children made candle flowers, combining creativity with careful observation. They also enjoyed making sausage croissant, which was a big hit and a delicious way to practice following steps in a recipe. One of the highlights was enjoying a fun and active time in the gym, where they worked together to build a tent using school mats. They used their creativity and teamwork to design and construct their own cozy space.

Overall, it has been a wonderful time filled with creativity, exploration, and active play. The children continue to grow through hands-on experiences, teamwork, and joyful learning. We look forward to many more exciting activities and memorable moments in the months ahead!

## **SA 104**

**By: Sajiththa & Firdous**

We welcomed the new year with excitement, reflection, and hope for the opportunities ahead. In January, the children enjoyed hands-on sensory exploration through kinetic sand play, which supported their creativity and fine motor development. They engaged in a variety of dramatic play experiences, taking on different roles and building social and communication skills. We also learned about Thai Pongal, exploring its cultural significance and traditions. In our cooking activity, the children worked together to make healthy pasta, practicing teamwork and learning about nutritious ingredients. To extend their learning, they collaboratively built a grocery stall, where they role-played as shopkeepers and customers while exploring early math concepts like counting and sorting.

February was filled with celebrations and creative learning experiences. The children celebrated Lunar New Year by making dragon and lucky fish crafts, while learning about cultural traditions. For Valentine's Day, they baked and decorated sugar cookies, and also prepared a healthy avocado smoothie as part of our focus on nutrition. During Black History Month, we explored important inventions and the contributions of African-American innovators, helping to build awareness and appreciation for diversity. The children also worked together on an exciting project, building a downtown city inspired by Toronto and adding recognizable buildings, which encouraged teamwork, creativity, and connection to their community.

In March, the children explored cultural celebrations by learning about Eid and trying chana chaat, a popular Pakistani chickpea snack. They showed great curiosity about natural disasters and worked in groups to create 3D models representing earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, and volcanoes, showcasing their creativity and collaboration skills. During March Break, the class participated in a variety of fun activities including hidden pictures, jewelry making, and melting bead art. We also celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a scavenger hunt, and ended the break with a cozy movie and s'mores day, giving the children a chance to relax and enjoy time together. Looking forward for summer and more activities out door.!

**POP - SA**

**By: Magda & Hamida**

We began the new year, with our school-age children being busy learning, growing, and staying active through a variety of exciting winter experiences. From exploring global sports to enjoying healthy foods. In January, we focused on building healthy routines after the holidays. Children explored the importance of eating nutritious foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables. They practiced making simple snacks like fruit salad, learning how different fruits provide vitamins that help keep their bodies strong. We also introduced indoor physical activities in the gym, where children participated in games that build strength, balance, and teamwork. Outdoor play remained important as well, with children enjoying winter weather through activities like running, climbing, and exploring nature.

February brought global excitement with the 2026 Winter Olympics, held in Italy from early to late February. The children learned about different winter sports such as skiing, snowboarding, and bobsleigh. They discovered that athletes from around the world compete in winter sports to try to win a medal for their country. Inspired by the Olympics, children participated in their own mini “Olympic Games,” practicing teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship—important values promoted through Olympic education programs for young learners.

As we moved into March, we began talking about planting and how things grow. Children learned how seeds turn into plants and discussed simple gardening ideas they can try at home or in the classroom. The weather outdoors is not great for planting but we started to cultivate the sunflower seeds. Thank you to the educator Lily for sharing with us the Sun Flower seeds. They have now sprouted in the pots and are thriving indoors, being watered and catching some UV light rays.

Cooking activities were also a highlight this month. Children helped make homemade pizza, choosing healthy toppings and learning about balanced meals. We made the dough from scratch and added 2 tablespoons of plain yogurt to make the dough softer. The children at first didn’t understand why we added the yogurt but when they ate the pizza dough they couldn’t taste the plain yogurt in the dough. They also revisited making fruit salad, reinforcing healthy eating habits in a fun, hands-on way. Physical activity continued to be a priority. Children stayed active through both outdoor play and structured gym time, helping to build coordination, confidence, and overall well-being. In the gym, we have a routine to nominate one child to lead in a warm up exercise before we start any activity. They have been interested in playing volleyball, soccer and other running games.

These past few months have shown how learning can be active, creative, and connected to the world around us. From the excitement of international sports to everyday healthy habits, our children are developing skills that support both their physical and emotional growth. We look forward to more opportunities for outdoor exploration, healthy cooking, active play and celebrating spring life. Thank you for your co-operation and looking forward to summer!

**POP – KG**  
**By: Jolentha**

As the new year began, our classroom was filled with excitement, creativity, and seasonal cheer. The winter months gave us many opportunities to explore, create, and celebrate together.

We kicked off the year by learning all about winter! The children explored the beauty of the season through stories, discussions, and hands-on activities. We talked about snow, ice, and how animals adapt to the cold weather. Creative art projects included painting on snow outdoors, we brought out the paints and the brushes and the children squirt paint onto the trays and on the snow and got to colouring the snow. We made snow cones by using the scoop and ball cone part and pressed snowballs with the snow ball maker and plopped them onto the cones. Then we drizzled paint on top and served them as pretend snow cone play. We also enjoyed sensory play with "snow". We again continued our play from outdoors of snow cones to indoor, the children really enjoyed having snow inside to explore as well. We also watched what was inside the snow when it started to melt, we found leaves, sand and rocks inside the melted snow. This taught the children that even when we see snow as white, underneath there are hidden things in the snow that we cannot see.

February brought a spirit of kindness and friendship as we celebrated Valentine's Day. The children had a wonderful time creating heart-themed crafts using paper, paint, and various materials. They made colorful cards and shared them with their friends, learning about caring, sharing, and expressing appreciation for others. Our classroom was filled with hearts and love as we talked about what it means to be a good friend. We also decorated our tree filled with hearts and had a wall of affirmation words.

One of the highlights of the season was our Chinese New Year celebration. The children were introduced to traditions, symbols, and the importance of this festive holiday. In our dramatic centre, we worked together to create a vibrant Lion Dance. The children designed and decorated their own lion head using recycled boxes and paint, they even added their own hand prints onto the lion to symbolize their contribution to the lion. They made ribbons for the best-looking lion for show. They brought the lion to life through movement and music. We had drumming sticks, tambourines and triangles to make all the clanging of the instruments. They took turns performing the Lion Dance, learning coordination, rhythm, and teamwork while having lots of fun. We learned the importance of team work especially through trust, the person who is at the back has to trust the person holding the lion head to guide them through movement and the lion head holder also has to trust the tail when doing lifts and jumps in the air. We didn't do any lifts or jumps but we learned how the head and tail of the lion have to trust each other to make one unison lion. The dramatic centre truly came alive with energy and cultural appreciation.

We have been fortunate to have a student teacher (Imma) for the past few months from Seneca, she has brought fun and engaging activities for the children. We will be sad when she leaves us in April but we do wish her the best of luck in her future adventures in the world of Early Childhood Education.

As we move into spring, we look forward to new outdoor exploration, and continued learning through play. Thank you for being part of our journey!